

**From:** msmclaug@midway.uchicago.edu@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 11:50pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

The proposed Microsoft antitrust case settlement does little to remedy Microsoft's continuing abuses of monopoly power, and what remedies it does have are specific in scope and have several loopholes. Its enforcement mechanism is also quite weak, giving Microsoft a strong say in the makeup of its own watchdog body. In addition to inadequately addressing past abuses, the settlement does little to prevent current or future abuses. The software industry is a rapidly changing environment, and new software and strategies such as Windows XP and .NET do now or seem likely to in the future employ practices abusing Microsoft's monopoly which are not covered in the terms of the proposed settlement. The settlement as it is would constitute a small slap on the wrist, and some curbs on illegal practices, leaving Microsoft free to continue its illegal pattern of behavior in other areas of business, while it can use loopholes and lax enforcement to continue doing what it has done in the past to a large extent.

I strongly recommend that the proposed settlement be rejected.

Sincerely,

Mike McLaughlin  
1067 Plowshare Rd.  
Blue Bell, PA 19422